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Paper No. 6

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPARTMENT
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FEB 2 6 2004

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Cooper, et al. :
Application No. 10/042,007 : **ON PETITION**
Filed: January 8, 2002 :
Attorney Docket No. AUS920010030US1 :

This is a decision on the petition to revive an unavoidably abandoned application under 37 CFR 1.137(a), filed February 12, 2004 (Certificate of Mailing dated February 12, 2004).

The petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a) is **DISMISSED**.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a)". Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. No fee is required for a renewed petition.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to timely file a reply in response to the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers, mailed April 5, 2002. This Notice set a shortened statutory period for reply of two months for applicant to submit substitute drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84. No extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. No reply having been received, the above identified application became abandoned on June 6, 2002. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on January 26, 2004.

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a) must be accompanied by: (1) the reply required to the outstanding Office action or notice, unless previously filed; (2) the petition fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(1); and (3) a showing to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to this paragraph was unavoidable. The instant petition lacks item (3).

Decisions on reviving abandoned applications on the basis of "unavoidable" delay have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable: "The word 'unavoidable' ... is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business."¹

Moreover, delay resulting from the lack of knowledge or improper application of the patent statutes, rules of practice or the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, however, does not constitute "unavoidable" delay.²

With regards to item (3), petitioner states that he did not receive a Notice to File Corrected Application Papers. However, petitioner has not met the showing required to establish nonreceipt of an Office action. To establish nonreceipt of an Office action, a practitioner must: 1) include a statement that the Office action was not received; 2) attest to the fact that a search of the file jacket and docket records indicates that the Office action was not received; and 3) include a copy of the **docket record** where the nonreceived Office action would have been entered had it been received and docketed.³ A proper docket report consists of a "docket record where the nonreceived Office action would have been entered had it been received and docketed."⁴ "For example, if a three month period for reply was set in the nonreceived Office action, a copy of the docket record showing all replies docketed for a date three months from the mail date of the nonreceived Office action must be submitted..."⁵

¹ In re Mattulath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (1912) (quoting Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (1887)); see also Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F. Supp. 550, 552, 138 U.S.P.Q. 666, 167-68 (D.D.C. 1963), aff'd, 143 U.S.P.Q. 172 (D.C. Cir. 1963); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (1913).

² See Haines, 673 F. Supp. at 317, 5 U.S.P.Q. 2d at 1132; Vincent v. Mossinghoff, 230 U.S.P.Q. 621, 624 (D.D.C. 1985); Smith v. Diamond, 209 U.S.P.Q. 1091 (D.D.C. 1981); Potter v. Dann, 201 U.S.P.Q. 574 (D.D.C. 1978); Ex parte Murray, 1891 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 130, 131 (1891).

³ See MPEP 711.03(c) (II).

⁴ MPEP 711.03(c) (II) (emphasis added).

⁵ Id.

Alternative Venue:

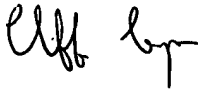
While the showing of record is not sufficient to establish to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the delay was unavoidable, petitioner is not precluded from obtaining relief by filing a petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) on the basis of unintentional delay. A grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by (1) The reply required to the outstanding Office action or notice, unless previously filed; (2) The petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m); and (3) A statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to this paragraph was unintentional.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petitions
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (703) 872-9306
 Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (703) 305-0272.



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Office of Petitions